

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method for discriminating noise from signal in a noise-contaminated signal involves decomposing a frame of samples of the signal into decorrelated components, and using a difference between probability distributions of the noise contributions and the signal contributions to identify signal and noise. A Gaussian distribution is used to determine whether the components are only noise whereas a Laplacian distribution is used to determine whether the components contain the signal. Such discrimination may be used in speech enhancement or voice activity detection apparatus.